

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
U.S.S. Lead Response - SitRep #32



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region 5

**Subject:** SitRep #32  
U.S.S. Lead Response  
East Chicago, IN

**To:** U.S.S. Lead Response Distribution List

**Through:** James Mitchell, Incident Commander  
**From:** Bradley Grams, Situation Unit Leader

**Date:** 9/23/16  
**Reporting Period:** 9/22/16, 1700 hours – 9/23/16, 1700 hours



*U.S. EPA Community Involvement Coordinator entering data from community outreach work.*

### **Section 1: Introduction & Site Background**

The U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery, Inc. (U.S.S. Lead) site is located in East Chicago, Lake County, Indiana. A copper smelter, lead refinery and secondary lead smelter operated on site from the 1920s to 1985. Smelting operations volatilized metals including lead and arsenic. Some lead-containing dust was wind deposited on the area soils during these operations. Blast furnace slag was stockpiled south of the plant building and spread once a year over an adjoining wetland south of the Site. The primary contaminants of concern are lead and arsenic which are present in exposed soils and subsequently could be tracked into the area residences.

EPA listed the U.S.S. Lead site to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 2009. The site includes part of the former U.S.S. Lead facility along with nearby commercial, municipal and residential areas. The overall site has been divided into three zones. The Removal Program is currently addressing soil and residential contamination in Zone 1 and specifically at the West Calumet Housing Complex (WCHC). Mulch has been placed over all exposed soils at the WCHC. Indoor sampling has been conducted in a subset of WCHC homes and analytical results are being validated. Teams have been mobilized to communicate directly with residents, develop temporary relocation procedures, develop cleaning procedures, and initiate outdoor sampling. The Remedial Program is currently collecting samples in Zones 2 and 3, and the analytical results will be evaluated for other potential areas needing remediation.

EPA is working in a Multi-Agency Coordination Team with the City of East Chicago, the East Chicago Housing Authority (ECHA), the State of Indiana, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

### 1.1 Incident Command Post

The U.S. EPA Incident Command Post (ICP) is located in the Carrie Gosch Elementary School at 455 E 148th St, East Chicago, IN 46312. The staging area for the response is located at E. 149<sup>th</sup> Place and McCook Avenue, East Chicago, IN 46312.

### 1.2 Objectives

- Ensure health and safety of the public and response personnel.
- Provide and manage necessary communications, both internally and externally.
- Continue home cleaning and temporary relocation for residents in Zone 1.
- Continue sampling indoor dust in Zone 1, and as requested in Zones 2 and 3.
- Perform soil sampling in Zone 2 and 3.
- Continue air monitoring in accordance with the draft plan.
- Expand crews to increase the number of homes that may be processed per week.
- Effective command, communications and control from job-site to Region 5 and EPA HQ.
- Manage media inquiries for accuracy and relay contamination results/lead levels to families.
- Effective temporary relocations for families with minimal disruptions to daily lifestyle.

### 1.3 Staffing

As of 1500 hours, 94 people were checked in either on site or in the EOC. For more detailed staffing information, see **Section 3: Metrics Table** or **Appendix B: Organizational Chart**.

## Section 2: Activities During Reporting Period

### 2.1 Incident Command

- Held Multi-Agency Coordination Team (MACT) teleconference at 0900.
- Attended daily East Chicago report out with Command and General Staff and Regional Management at 1500.

### 2.2 Sampling Team

- Collected pre-cleaning samples at 13 residences today.
- 3 air monitoring locations are in place and operating.
- Continued preparing for additional air monitoring and identifying three additional air monitoring and sampling locations.

### 2.3 Community Involvement Team

- Answered the EPA hotline (219-801-2199)
- Directed some residents to the Blood Lead Clinic.
- Responded to phone call / walk-in inquiries from East Chicago residents with general questions about lead. Total contacts as of 1500 is 71 (9 walk-in visits).

- For Zone 1, scheduled 7 appointments with residents for relocation interview, and received 3 access agreements.
- 5 incoming and 57 outgoing calls were received and returned for Zone 1.
- No call activity for Zone 2 residents.
- No call activity for Zone 3 residents.
- The Open House is confirmed for the public meeting in Riley Park, September 24, 2016 from 1400 to 1700.

#### **2.4 Interview/Relocation Team**

- No major issues reported on the final close out forms.
- Completed 8 interviews, all agreed to house cleaning.
- Scheduled temporary relocation move-out dates for the 8 homes interviewed.
- 5 families moved out and 4 returned home, with 9 families on temporary relocation.
- Numbers of families on temporary relocation will expand over the next week

#### **2.5 Liaison**

Continued multi-agency coordination in identifying three additional air monitoring and sampling locations.

#### **2.6 Public Information**

Responded to media inquiries.

#### **2.7 Safety**

- No injuries or illness reported today.
- Routine site safety inspections and monitoring continuing as required.
- Post Office approval to install a handrail to access Zone 2 air monitoring equipment was received. The handrail has been installed by ERRS.

#### **2.8 Finance**

Reminder to check the R5EOC email from 8/29/16 at 1038 for USS Lead Deployment accounting codes.

The following table shows obligated and expended funds on current USS Lead contracts and will continue to be updated based on expenditure information:

Contractor	Contractor/ Tasking Document	Scope	Zone	Obligated	Expended
s	EP-S4-16-04/ TO#1	Provide Mulch	1	\$300,000.00	\$154,847.22
Environmental Restoration	EP-S4-16-02/ TO#2	Relocation/ Cleaning	1	\$3,500,000.00	\$1,277,189.40
Environmental Restoration	EP-S4-16-02/ TO#XX (Verbal)	Excavation	3	\$250,000.00	\$0.00
TetraTech	EP-S5-13-01/ S05-0001-1608-001	Relocation Guide	1	\$100,000.00	\$21,524.92
TetraTech*	EP-S5-13-01/ S05-0014-1608-003	Dust Sampling	1	\$310,000.00	\$217,688.28
TetraTech*	EP-S5-13-01/ S05-0014-1608-006	Site Management (All Relocation tasks)	1	\$260,000.00	\$237,655.46
TetraTech*	EP-S5-13-01/ S05-0014-1608-007	Data Management	1	\$90,000.00	\$64,359.64
TetraTech	EP-S5-13-01 S05-0014-1609-006	Remedial Data Management	2, 3	\$ 60,000.00	\$0.00
SRS	EP-S5-16-01 TO#5 S05-005-16-09-003	Remedial Action	3	\$ 130,000.00	\$0.00
SulTRAC	EP-S5-06-02/ WA 198	Design	1, 2, 3	\$2,000,000.00	\$1,998,485.55
SulTRAC	EP-S5-06-02/ WA 308	Design	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Estimated EPA Personnel Costs	NA	Site Management	1, 2, 3	NA	\$258,000.00

\* Note updated TetraTech numbers are based on estimated burn rates, additional estimates will be updated as available.

## 2.9 Remedial (Zone 2 & 3)

- Three sampling teams in Zone 2.
- One team staged in the Field Office to process samples and complete database requests.
- Completed sampling four (quad) properties in Zone 2, so the sampling effort was doubled for them.
- As of 1500, more than 200 properties (208) have been sampled.

## 2.10 Data Management

Continued daily data loading and GIS web viewer development.

## Section 3: Metrics Table

Metric	09/23/2016	Cumulative
<b>Sampling, Zone 1</b>		
Residences with Indoor Dust Samples Collected	13	160
Residences Scheduled for Indoor Dust Sampling Appointments	7	156
Validated Pre-Cleaning Sampling Results Received from Lab (Reported in Residences)	0	140
Residences Verbally Contacted about Sampling Results Prior to Mailing Letters	47	102
Result Letters	0	55
Hand Delivered	0	14
Mailed	0	77
<b>Relocation</b>		
Residents Contacted	45	495
Relocation Interviews Conducted	8	175
Cleaning Access Agreements Signed	8	175
Currently Relocated Residences	9	
Homes Cleaned	4	81
Belongings Cleaned (No Relocation)		2
Households Returned to Home	4	81
<b>Sampling, Zone 2</b>		
Total Properties		597
Access Agreements Signed	2	392
No Access/Denied Access	0	4
Properties Collected	13	208
<b>Sampling, Zone 3</b>		
Total Properties		468
Access Agreements Signed	0	411
No Access/Denied Access	0	57
Properties Collected	0	411
Properties Re-Sampled	0	16
<b>Personnel</b>		
EPA on site	16	
Coordinating agency onsite	0	HUD
Indiana State Department of Health	1	
Contractors/other onsite	76	
EPA in Emergency Operations Center (EOC)	1	
TOTAL	94	

#### Section 4: Definition of Terms

Acronym	Definition
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
DOJ	Department of Justice
ECHA	East Chicago Housing Authority
EDD	Electronic Data Deliverable
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
ERRS	Emergency Rapid Response Services
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
ICP	Incident Command Post
ISDH	Indiana State Department of Health
ORC	Office of Regional Counsel
NPL	National Priority List
PII	Personally Identifiable Information
SitRep	Situation Report
START	Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team
WCHC	West Calumet Housing Complex
U.S.S Lead	U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery, Inc.
XRF	X-ray Fluorescence

## Appendix A Site Diagram



## Appendix B Organizational Chart



